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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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**CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR CONSIDERATION OF A BILL
IN THE FRENCH COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC**

On the first reading of a government bill originating in the National Assembly, the Council of the Republic can delay an expression of opinion for two months from the time the bill is transmitted from the National Assembly. If the Assembly requests urgency procedure, the Council is entitled to a six-day delay.

If the Council does not take a stand during the delay period provided for above, or if the Council votes to support the bill, the law is then promulgated according to the text voted by the Assembly. The President of the Republic has ten days to promulgate a bill under the ordinary procedure or five days under the urgency procedure. If the President does not act within this time limit, the President of the National Assembly can promulgate the law.

Instead of thus promulgating the bill, however, the President of the Republic can insist on both houses reconsidering it within the above time limits.

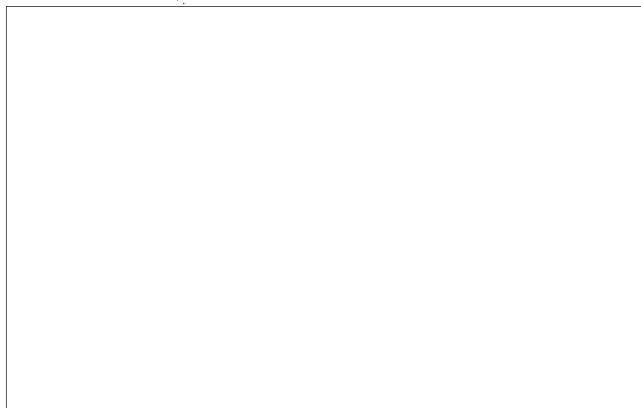
If the Council opposes the bill as sent to it by the Assembly, examination of the bill continues before both houses in an effort to reach agreement on an identical text.

If agreement is not reached within 100 days of the transmission of the text to the Council for the second reading (this period may be reduced to 15 days under the urgency procedure), the Assembly can pass the bill either by taking up the last text it voted or by modifying the text through the adoption of any amendment proposed by the Council.

Alternatively, if, within this 100-day limit for the second reading, the Council is still in disagreement with the Assembly, each house may delay still further in an effort to reach agreement, provided that the total period of delay is not more than the period used by the other house for the previous reading. In any case, there is a minimum period of delay amounting to seven days under the ordinary procedure, and one day under the urgency procedure.

SEE REVERSE FOR DECLASSIFICATION ACTION

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If after all periods of delay have expired the Council is still opposed, the Assembly can then legislate regardless of the Council's views.

In general, the Assembly can vote to prolong all these delay periods provided for by the constitution. Furthermore, by going beyond or prolonging the period of its consideration of the bill, the Assembly automatically increases the time available to the Council.

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